

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 03865 121548Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1720

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 3865

NODIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.), AU

SUBJ: VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE VISIT TO VIENNA: AUSTRIAN

AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT

1. CHARGE CALLED ON CHANCELLOR KREISKY MAY 11 TO DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS AND SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S VISIT.

2. KREISKY SAID THERE WAS ONLY ONE MAJOR BILATERAL ITEM HE HAD IN MIND FOR DISCUSSION. THIS CONCERNED AUSTRIAN PLANS FOR PROCUREMENT OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT. KREISKY SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD GIVEN ITS APPROVAL TO THE ISRAELIS FOR THE SALE OF THE KFIR TO AUSTRIA (CHARGE CONFIRMED THIS WAS SO). KREISKY SAID AUSTRIA DID NOT, HOWEVER, INTEND TO PURCHASE THE KFIR DIRECTLY. INSTEAD, HE ENVISAGED SETTING UP A PRODUCTION LINE IN AUSTRIA TO BUILD A MILITARY AIRCRAFT WHICH WOULD IN FACT BE THE KFIR UNDER ANOTHER NAME. KREISKY CONVEYED THAT THE AUSTRIANS HAD DISCUSSED SUCH A SCHEME WITH THE ISRAELIS, WHO APPARENTLY SAW ADVANTAGES FOR THEM IN IT, NOT ONLY AS REGARDS MILITARY AIRCRAFT UT ALSO FOR CIVIL AIRCRAFT DEVELOPMENT. ON THIS LAST POINT, KREISKY COMMENTED THAT THERE WERE COUNTRIES WHICH WOULD NOT WISH TO BUY AN ISRAELI CIVIL AIRCRAFT BUT WHICH WOULD

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BE INTERESTED IN BUYING AUSTRIAN.

3. KREISKY REFERRED, BUT NOT PRECISELY, TO THE POSSIBILITY OF PARTICIPATION IN THE SCHEME BY AN AMERICAN COMPANY (UNNAMED), AND IT MAY BE THIS ASPECT THAT HE WILL WISH TO ENLARGE ON FURTHER WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT.

4. KREISKY STRESSED THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE INFORMATION. HE MADE THE POINT THAT FROM THE AUSTRIAN VIEWPOINT THE BEST TIMING OF PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF THE SCHEME WOULD BE AFTER RESUMPTION OF A MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE. AT THE SAME TIME, HE SEEMED TO THINK THERE MIGHT BE LEAKS BEFORE THEN, FOR HE SAID THAT IF HE WERE QUESTIONED PUBLICLY ABOUT THE SCHEME HE WOULD NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY, BUT SAY IT WAS ONE OF SEVERAL OPTIONS FOR AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD UNDER STUDY.MEEHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROCUREMENT, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, CAT-B
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977VIENNA03865
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850070-2672, N770003-0321
Format: TEL
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770564/aaaacdad.tel
Line Count: 71
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b28a3895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2544463
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE VISIT TO VIENNA: AUSTRIAN AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT
TAGS: OVIP, MASS, AU, (MONDALE, WALTER F)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b28a3895-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009